

The
Patrician



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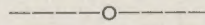


THE LADY PATRICIA RAMSAY

Colonel-in-Chief

Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry

This publication is issued under authority of
 LT. COL. J. R. CAMERON, OBE
 President, Regimental Executive Committee
 Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry



The contents of this publication have been edited and approved by
 MAJOR H. G. MUNRO
 Secretary-Treasurer

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Contributions and Subscriptions should be addressed to:

Commanding Officer,
 PPCLI Depot,
 Currie Barracks,
 Calgary, Alberta.

Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry

(Allied with The Rifle Brigade)



Colonel-in-Chief

THE LADY PATRICIA RAMSAY



Founder of the Regiment

and

Honorary Colonel

BRIGADIER A. HAMILTON GAULT, DSO, ED

The Patrician is the Regimental Journal
of

Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry

Currie Barracks, Calgary, Alberta

A semi-annual journal published at the Home Station and devoted to the interests
of all serving and former members of the Regiment.

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Foreword . . .

by

LT. COL. J. R. CAMERON, OBE

President, Regimental Executive Committee



Since the PATRICIAN was last published many changes have taken place in the Regiment. A Regimental Executive Committee, composed of the present Battalion Commanders has now been organized for the control of all matters of regimental concern. The Committee proposes, through the medium of the PATRICIAN which it intends to publish semi-annually, to acquaint its readers with the activities of the regiment and of its members, past and present.

An outstanding event in the history of the regiment will be enacted in September. Our Colonel-in-Chief, the Lady Patricia Ramsay has graciously consented to be present at a combined ceremonial of her first and second battalions, which will include "Trooping the Colour" by the first battalion, "presentation of colours" to the second battalion, and a "March Past" by the Regiment. All Patricias are extended a most hearty invitation to be present at the ceremony.

To ensure the success of the PATRICIAN all Patricias are urged to forward for publication "news items" and "anecdotes" of regimental interest.

The Committee is now in process of revising its regimental list of officers and men who have served with the regiment. Readers are asked to assist by forwarding names and present addresses of former serving members to ensure that lists are both accurate and complete.

REGIMENTAL NOTES

THE REGIMENTAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The formation of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry regimental executive committee, was delayed for a number of reasons. Although the plan for the organization of executive committees was issued to all Active Force regiments having two or more units in February, 1952, it was September before our first committee meeting was held. Now, however, a constitution has been drawn up and approved by all three battalions and our committee is functioning.

The aim of the committee is to: 1. administer regimental non-public property, including funds for the benefit of the regiment as a whole; 2. honour the right of each battalion of the regiment to its appropriate share of non-public property and, 3. foster and preserve historic customs and traditions of the regiment.

The committee consists of:—

President - Commanding Officer of the battalion occupying the home station.

Members - Commanding Officer or a representative designated by the Commanding Officer of each battalion of the regiment.

Secretary-Treasurer - an officer in the rank of Major as selected by Army Headquarters, to be permanently located at the home station.

THE REGIMENTAL JOURNAL

The Patrician dates from the year 1933 and was formerly published by the regiment as a quarterly journal. The editors were located at Work Point Barracks in Victoria, British Columbia and the journal was printed by the

Veterans' Press in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The copy for Volume V, Number 3 was delivered to the printer in August, 1939 but, due to the war situation, this issue was never published. No copies of the pre-war Patrician are included amongst the regimental records.

In 1946, the regiment published a monthly newsletter, at Calgary, Alberta. The fifteen copies of this post war publication are now carefully preserved with the regimental records. They form an invaluable account of the activities of the regiment during the period 1946-48. It is a pity that the thread was broken and it will be difficult to fill the gap in detail.

The Patrician is being republished as a semi-annual journal and an attempt will be made: 1. to set out a faithful record of the activities of the regiment and, 2. to keep in touch the scattered members of our family.

This and subsequent issues will be placed in the institutes of the units of the regiment for the benefit of the officers and men serving with the regiment at home and abroad.

This issue only is being distributed to all Canadian Army Commands and areas in an effort to reach all Patricia officers and men serving away from the regiment. Copies go also to the PPCLI Association, with branches throughout the country, in an effort to reach all former members of the regiment. The purpose, of course, is to advertise the journal and make it available to individuals by subscription.

The constitution of the regimental executive committee calls for the publication of a regimental journal and, this service to the regiment will be provided, through the years to come, by the members of the committee whenever they may be.

The Colonel-in-Chief Will Visit The Regiment In September

The Lady Patricia Ramsay, Colonel-in-Chief of the regiment, has graciously accepted an invitation to visit her regiment at the home station, Calgary, Alberta in September.

Plans are being made for regimental functions to be held in Calgary which include: 1. A training demonstration. 2. Regimental parade with first and second battalions. 3. Regimental dinner. 4. Regimental ball. 5. Garden Party. Details for the activities which will take place on the 10th, 11th and 12th of September, 1953 will be announced separately at a later date.

The Lady Patricia Ramsay will be accompanied on her visit by Admiral Sir Alexander Ramsay and the Honorary Colonel, Brigadier A. Hamilton Gault.

The September issue of the *Patrician* will feature the visit of our Colonel-in-Chief.

THE COLONEL-IN-CHIEF'S BIRTHDAY

On Tuesday, 17th March, 1953, first and second battalions of the regiment paraded at 0830 hours on the parade square at Currie Barracks in honour of the birthday of our Colonel-in-Chief.

The regiment was formed up in close column of companies by WO1 O. Gardner, acting as parade Sergeant Major. Lt. Col. J. R. Stone, DSO and two bars, MC, as parade commander, gave a short address to outline the im-

portance to all Patricia's of this "Special" day and finished by leading all ranks in three cheers for The Lady Patricia Ramsay.

After dismissal of the parade, Broom-i-loo players hurried to dress for the traditional struggle on the hockey rink. Three hours of keen competition between company teams from both battalions resulted in second battalion's "Baker" company winning the laurels. The first battalion officers' team beat a combined 1st and 2nd battalion Sergeants' team from the Sergeants' Mess, in a special match, to even the honours. The schedule was conducted in a snowstorm with Second Lieutenant "Johnny" Pariseau acting as "whip", while Major H. G. Munro and WO1 O. Gardner handled the referee's chores.

At the men's lunch, Lt. Col. J. R. Stone, proposed the toast to our Colonel-in-Chief and read out the many telegrams despatched and received by the regiment on this gala occasion. The remainder of the day was observed as a regimental holiday.

A dance, for the men, was held in the evening with the officers and their wives taking part in the grand march. Later, a ball was held in the Officers' Mess.

NEW COMMANDER NAMED FOR 3 BATTALION PPCLI

FLASH—A new commander has been named to lead the 3rd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry in Korea. He is Maj. Malcolm Francis MacLachlan, M.C., C.D., 35, a native of Great Village, N.S. He succeeds Lt.-Col. H. F. Wood, 38, of Toronto, who has returned to Canada because of illness.

FREZENBERG DAY

The 8th of May, this year was observed under battalion arrangements.

A very old friend of the regiment remembered her boys (8 May 1915) and her letter to the home station is reproduced here.

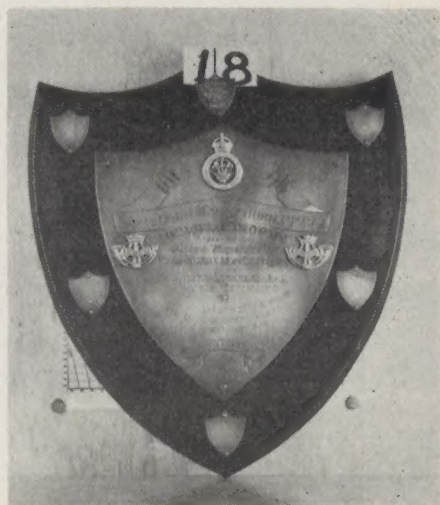
Dear "Officer Commanding"

If you have an 8th of May re-view, will you please give my good wishes to all Ranks! Thank you. It does not seem possible that, that awful day is away back 38 years ago—whilst it only seems as yesterday and so does June 2nd and 4th, 1916. What a different 2nd of June we are hoping to spend this year — but we will all who remember June 2nd, 1916 weather, hope for just such a lovely sunny day, in London. I hope to be on the side walk in the Mall. Have just heard from one of my "A" Division (Scotland Yard) friends, that there will be two ranks of soldiers and one of police lining the Mall, so we should be well protected. I have many friends in "A" Division, who always look out for me in November. Would that I could think that I would lay one Remembrance — for another 33 times at The Cenotaph — How I wish I still lived in or nearer to London — then I might see the "Ladies" when they came "on leave" — but if only they come to this part of old England they would be very welcome. If the weather would dry and get warmer the badly flooded part would soon dry out, altho' sea water is harder to dry out clean-fresh. Fortunately for me, I live on the Cliff Top, so only suffered gale damage.

Wishing you all God's blessing and Good Health and a Good Day for your re-view — My love always. "London Mother" 1915-----!!!!

Jenny

Jenny MacGregor Morris,
St. Andrew's Cottage,
Gorleston-on-Sea,
Norfolk.



The Lieutenant John D'Arcy Horn, PPCLI, Memorial Trophy.

This trophy was presented by a friend of the late Lt. J. D'Arcy Horn, killed in action, while serving with the regiment, in Sicily.

The trophy is for annual competition by Royal Canadian Army Cadets of the Manitoba-Lakehead Area, Prairie Command. It will be awarded to the Cadet Corps showing the greatest improvement during any one training year.

Lt. Col. L. H. Young, PPCLI, AAG Prairie Command authorized the pattern for the trophy.

IN MEMORIAM

Late

Brigadier-General R. T. Pelly, CB, CMG, DSO

It is with deepest regret that the Regiment announces the death of Brigadier-General R. T. Pelly, CB, CMG, DSO at Windsor Castle, England on 1 July, 1952.

Brigadier-General Pelly served in France as a Company Commander with the Regiment in World War 1 and commanded Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry from 15 May 15 to 7 Dec 15 when he returned to England to command 8th Royal Irish Fusiliers. He returned to France to command the Regiment again from 3 Aug 16 to 31 Oct 16.

THE REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

The regimental journal will carry periodic reports about the regimental museum as a regular feature of The Patrician.

The regimental executive committee will re-open the regimental museum when suitable accommodation becomes available. The question of a policy for the museum collection is being studied together with administrative details and cost. It is planned to show the "history of the regiment" in chronological sequence by means of existing exhibits which will be enlarged as further items are acquired.

A "portrait" gallery is planned as one feature of the museum. A complete set of photographs of regimental commanders is available but a set of photographs of regimental sergeants major is not. Individual photos or snapshots are required as follows:

1914 RSM (WO1) W. H. Marsden

1915 RSM (WO1) L. Scott, DCM (commissioned).

1915 RSM (WO1) A. Fraser (killed in action).

1915 RSM (WO1) S. Patterson, DCM.

1915 RSM (WO1) J. Anderson, MC.

1915-16 RSM (WO1) S. Godfrey (killed in action).

1916-17 RSM (WO1) W. J. Foden.

1918 RSM (WO1) C. Peacock, MC, DCM.

1918-21 RSM (WO1) M. F. Gillingham, MC, DCM, (deceased).

1944-45 RSM (WO1) R. W. MacFarlane.

Readers of The Patrician may be able to provide photos required. Frames and plaques of a uniform pattern will be supplied from the funds allotted to the regimental museum.

During the planning stage, suggestions and comments are invited. Contributions will be gratefully accepted. Items which are directly connected with the history of the regiment are required. Articles of dress for the proposed "uniform" display together with "medals" for a collection to show "campaigns" would be most acceptable.

Receipt of the following additions to the regimental museum collection is gratefully acknowledged:

1. An Italian cavalry standard captured by Dog Company of the regiment during the early days of the Italian campaign, 1943. Donated by Captain J. L. "Foo" Hunter.

2. A set of the "Times History of the War" (World War I) to form part of the regimental military reference library as part of the museum. Donated by Captain J. A. Shaw, RCAPC, Paymaster second battalion.

3. Two captured weapons, a Beretta and a Luger to form part of the general military interest display "weapons collection". Donated by Major E. J. Williams of first battalion.

With the formation of the regimental depot it is hoped that suitable accommodation will be made available.

REGIMENTAL DRESS INSTRUCTIONS

Regimental dress instructions are now under review and a good deal of thought and study will be given to the subject before the draft copy is finally submitted to Army Headquarters for approval. When approved, copies will be circulated to all Patricia's. In the meantime, please refer doubtful points to the Regimental Executive Committee.

FLASH

Plans are underway for the formation of a regimental depot at the home station and details will be reported in our next issue.

CANADIAN CORONATION CONTINGENT

On Wednesday evening, 22nd April, 1953, members of the regiment selected to attend the coronation ceremonies of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in London, departed from Calgary. We are very proud to record that Lt. Col. J. R. Stone, DSO and two bars, MC, will command the Canadian contingent. Others representing the regiment are:

1st Battalion: Captain R. W. Dudley, Sgt. Tutte, K. G., Cpl. Reding, R. G., L/Cpl. Sneinski, G.P., Pte. Lalonde, G., Pte. Dingman, D. T., Pte. Coulter, W. F., Pte. Parker, R., Pte. Bowley, H. L., Pte. Hatcher, C. V., Pte. Slattery, T. B.

2nd Battalion: Captain R. K. Swinton, MC, WO2 Coutts, J. C., Cpl. Kelly, J.K., Cpl. Stephen, J., L/Cpl. Litzenburg, M. J., Pte. Burke, V.C., Pte. Pettifer, R.C., Pte. Kirby, M. E., Pte. Lewis, R. R., Pte. Murphy, E. R., Pte. Beka, P. R., Pte. Fraser, D. C.

FIRST BATTALION REPORT

With the arrival in Korea of elements of the Third Battalion in the latter part of September, the long desire for a return to Canada materialized into reality. The first two Companies of 1 Battalion, having had their share of uniform adjustments, boot polishing and medical clearance, left "B" Ech on 24 September 1952 heading for the shores of Western Canada. This group set sail from Yokahama aboard the U.S.S. Freeman on 13 October 1952; and, although the next two weeks were extremely uncomfortable, due to limited accommodation, no one complained. Upon docking at Seattle the "Ocean Blues" gave way to a feeling of elation for plans made during the past year were about to be effected. At No. 11 Personnel Depot at Jericho



Lt. Col. J. R. Cameron, OBE, CO 1 Battalion turning over battle positions in Korea to ROK Commander.

Beach, there was a processing system in action which deserves much credit. Many amenities were made available and families of returning soldiers were on hand. Upon reaching Calgary troops were again received with much enthusiasm. Thus the first elements of 1 Battalion arrived safely home and commenced their 60 day leave period.

We take this opportunity of thanking the PPCLI Ladies' Auxiliary of Vancouver and Calgary for their outstanding work. We do realize the hard work involved in raising funds, making up parcels and endeavouring to please everyone.

Approximately 6 weeks later, the remainder of the Battalion effected a change over with Third Battalion and, on 4 November, First Battalion paraded in "Cherry" berets for the first time since field service caps came into wear. The parade was for Brigadier Bogart who thanked the Battalion for its service in the brigade and

said farewell. On 11 November, the battalion had the opportunity of paying their respects to the dead at the United Nations cemetery, where services were held by Roman Catholic and Protestant Padres.

This group arrived in Seattle on the morning of 5 December and was greeted by the Regimental band playing the famous "Ric-a-dam-doo" The troops debarked and boarded the CPR train for Calgary. A tremendous welcome was given by the people of Calgary and area. Following this refreshments were served in the Legion Hall.

AROUND THE COMPANIES

"A" Coy

This Company was formed in late February 1953, and will be employed in the mobile striking force role.

The slate of Officers and men has changed considerably. Capt. Potts (2IC) has been cross-posted to "B" Coy. Lt. Duncan and 2/Lt. Rithaler have also been cross posted. Sgt. Dionne was posted to "B" Coy. Lt. Gauley and Lt. Ostiguy replaced our two Pl Commanders. Sgt. Locke replaced Sgt. DIONNE; S/Sgt. BUXTON, DCM has returned from a QM Course at Montreal.

To date the Company has completed 4 para drops. The first was from a C-47, while the last three were from a C-119. The fourth drop was done with equipment and section exercises were carried out. A party of RCE personnel recovered the chutes and equipment at the DZ. Injuries have been kept to a minimum, however there have been a few. Lt. Duncan is in hospital with a bashed knee. Pte. Dougherty and Jackson are still in hospital. Jackson is suffering from a spinal fracture and Dougherty with a shoulder injury. Both are progressing favourably.

The Company is looking forward to more

drops, and also to going "Up the Highway". S/Sgt. Buxton has his new shotgun all oiled and hot to go. Let's hope he finds time to get us a few quail.

"B" Coy

(By Capt. A. M. Potts)

Since the return of the battalion from Korea there have been many changes in the composition of "B" Company. Many of the Korean Veterans were discharged, and others were posted to build up the strength of 'A' Company when the battalion was re-organized in February.

The Company has been functioning since 24 April, at which time No. 4 Platoon was organized. No. 5 Pl personnel are, at the time of writing, undergoing para training at CJATC, Rivers and will not be back until the latter part of May. The bodies from 6 Platoon are still to be "found".

Major J. L. Hart, who commanded the com-



The Brigade Commander bids farewell to the battalion.

pany on re-organization, was posted to Korea at the beginning of May. His job has been taken over by Capt. A. M. Potts who has just returned from 27 Bde in Europe. Lts. V. P. Rithaler and W. H. Jans are commanding Platoons. Both these officers served with rifle companies in Korea.

CSM (WO2) Felix Carrier, the "Old Sweat" of the Company, enlisted in the Patricia's in September '39 and landed in Sicily with B Company on 10 July '43. WO2 Carrier was CSM of the Company in Korea.

CQMS R. H. Appleton MM, who came to the Regt. in '48, has served continuously with the Company since that time. Other old hands still with the Company are Sgt. H. A. Dionne, Cpls. Burke, Debney and Walker; L/Cpl. Zwolak, Ptes. Bolen, Gossfeld, Niven and Pottle.

The Company is now engaged in training to qualify personnel as leading infantrymen with the aim of having a highly efficient company "battle group" by mid-July, at which time summer exercises start.

A CHATTER FROM CHARLEY COY

(By L/Cpl. Furniss)

To Lt. W. H. Jones we offer our congratulations. Whilst he was a "one piper", he at least occasionally dropped in to the Company Office, now as a "two piper" we never see him. We realize the importance of having a Canteen and Messing Officer but would still like to see him once in awhile.

Lt. Cory is busy putting the men through their paces and hopes to have them all re-qualified as leading Infantrymen within the next month. He is ably assisted by Cpl. Wooly, Cpl. Birwert and Cpl. Caskenette.

We say good-bye to Officer Cadet Burch who did a fine job whilst he was with this Company. Good luck, Sir!

Our deepest sympathy goes to CSM (WO2) R. McMurdo who recently lost his father in a car accident.

We say hello to CQSM Mack who has just returned from a Storeman Clerk's course in Mon-

real. Capt. Swick already has the CQ out searching frantically for wax.

Cpl. Pippus and Cpl. Lightheart are at Rivers on a Jump Course (300 more beers and probably 500 more pushups).

Pte. Sevatus, ex-galloping stretcher bearer, will be galloping harder in months to come, congratulations on your recent marriage.

L/Cpl. E. O. Rohac, the one and only fiddler, haircutter, philosopher and FBI representative, has been posted to the SPY Catching Section (I Office).

"D" COY

(By L/Cpl. Carmichael)

On April the 1st '53 Dog Company was reformed under Command of Major A. Robbins and CSM (WO2) Lynch. This Company consists of approximately 200 members. Company training stresses the throwing of grenades. It seems that CSM Lynch has never forgotten the valuable lessons received in Korea in the art of grenade throwing.

One draft of 43 men has been formed to date and by now personnel are either arriving in Korea or are already serving in the front line.

The preparing of drafts for Korea requires patience and a mammoth machine of human beings for documentation. The task includes the processing of medical documents, MFM 6's, ITR'S, identity cards, dog tags, leave forms and transportation warrants.

Those who have been wondering at the cause of the never ending line of soldiers outside the company office, are informed that this line is composed of individuals, who for sundry reasons, were taken off the draft and, are making a bid, through the Company Commander, to be replaced on the draft.

"SUPPORT COMPANY HIGHLIGHTS"

(By Cpl. B. J. Maitre)

December was indeed a happy month, which allowed many wishes to be fulfilled. For some, 60 days leave was a time for reckless and boisterous celebrations, for others it was a time of peace and tranquillity.

January and February saw the reshuffling and re-organizing of first battalion. At first, many of the sheep were caught in the inevitable turmoil of confusion and awakened to find themselves amid a strange flock. However, the majority are now back in the original fold.

Courses in all "support" weapons are being attended, by company personnel, at the school of infantry in Camp Borden.

HQ COMPANY

(By Pte. Rosen)

It is barely three months since Headquarters Company was formed, on our return home from the Far East. We must make comment on that superb, relaxing 60 day period. No Brens to clean, no water to be carried and no mess tins to be disinfected.

On this page, we hope to portray some of the company happenings since our return.

We wish to congratulate Staff Shaw on his posting as CQMS of HQ Company (without that red Moustache he is found to be most acceptable).

Comment heard in the "STOP and GO" INN:

"If the meals get any worse and prices any higher, in this joint, a guy will soon have to eat in the Mess".

It was hinted that L/Cpl. Norman and L/Cpl. Thurn have requested transfer to the Provost Corps. Both are experienced with some of the aspects of "Provost" life.

We are glad to see that CSM WO2 Roberts has returned from "Charley" Company, where he was on loan, along with his pipe—naturally, (It must be very uncomfortable sleeping with a pipe in the mouth).

Congratulations to Frank Korp and Pte. Le-Quin on their engagements (to girls).

If "weird" noises attacking your eardrums at 6 a.m. baffle you, you will be relieved to know, it is just one of our Bandsmen sounding Reveille. With the new rabies control in effect it is suggested that Bandsmen be tied up along with the Dogs.

Did you know that Pte. Robertson was given a belated present, after returning from a Birthday celebration? His present, 14 days CB.

Since our return home, the company has lost that esteemed Drum Major "Jock" Mackie alias Rolly Polly. He is now employed as CQMS with "D" Coy and is sorely missed by the whole company. Never-the-less, we are certain that inexperienced "D" Coy requires Rolly Polly's wisdom and affable personality more than we do.

The Regimental Camera Club is again in operation and its members are confident that the club will be successful. Some of the members are Capt. L. A. Swick, Lt. Theiss, CSM Roberts, Sgt. Maguire and, surprisingly enough, the big wheel is L/Cpl. Windsor who is assisted by Frank Korp. Sgt. Maguire feels that if he can become adapt enough in the photographic field, the reprinting of money should be an easy matter.

Transportation is now beginning to take shape and already we have received one or two new vehicles. RCME are heavily engaged in inspecting, checking and "okaying" our transportation. We welcome back Sgt. Couture as transport sergeant. He has just completed a Driver-Mechs course at Camp Borden.

Probably the hardest working souls within this area are those employed in the RQ's office. It must be frustrating to be spending, collecting and working with so much money and never touching it (that goes for the RQ's secretary too).

BATTALION HQ NOTES

Since our return from Korea there have been numerous changes of personnel in battalion headquarters. Some of the new faces and appointments are as follows: Major C.O. Huggard 2IC, Capt. G.A. Gunton Adjt., Lt. R. J. Frost Asst./Adjt. and Sgt. G. W. Elliott. Sgt. Thomas is rapidly catching up the work in the BOR and it should not be long before a high degree of efficiency is reached. While we mention Sgt. Thomas, it is wondered, if he was as exuberant in making his good year wishes this year as he was in January '52.

PARACHUTE TRAINING WING

1 Battalion having returned from a year's service in Korea, prepared to assume its new role as a part of Canada's mobile striking force. In order to function effectively as a Parachute Battalion, several problems had to be solved.

Parachutists who had served with the unit in Korea had not jumped for eighteen months and were out of form. New jump techniques, equipment and aircraft had replaced those with which the unit was familiar. To deal with these problems a Parachute Training Wing was formed consisting of a co-ordinating officer — Major Mainprize, Lieutenant Caesar and 10 non-commissioned officers.

The function of the parachute training wing is to conduct pre-parachute training for all personnel proceeding to CJATC for parachute training. The object of this training is to prepare the soldier mentally and physically for parachute training. A seven-day course deals briefly with jump techniques and equipment culminating in exits from the "mock" tower. This indoctrination has definitely proved to be effective and has resulted in only one psychological failure out of 206 officers and men despatched to Canadian Joint Air Training Centre.

• In addition, a refresher and reconversion program is carried out for all unit personnel. The object of this training is: 1. to improve the individual's jump technique, 2. to train the individual in the use of new equipment, and 3. to initiate the individual in the jump procedures of the C-119 aircraft. To date, 371 para-descents have been made with only light injuries.

FROM THE SERGEANTS' MESS

There will be a Coronation Dance held in the Sgts. Mess on the 6th of June 53 at 2030 hours.

Tea will be held in the mess for the Governor General on 18 May 53, served by the Ladies Auxiliary.

The Sgts. Bowling League is on the way to becoming a large success. Thanks are due to the, not too inconsiderable, efforts of RQMS Smith. Come and join the fun. If you can bowl 30 or over your talents are in urgent demand.

A magnificent gathering of all, or nearly all, the talent of 1PPCLI will be held in the Sgts. Mess to commemorate Frezenberg Day. It is rumoured that a gastronomical masterpiece has been concocted by some mysterious catering department, the head of which has so far eluded all our tracing efforts and therefore remains to date in total obscurity. Such modesty!

Sgts. Richardson and Hansen are soon to return to Korea. I can only pin it down to the old axiom: "In the spring, a young man's fancy lightly turns to the fragrance of lotus blossoms and rice paddies". Best of Luck!

The QMSI, a fine physical specimen, broad of shoulder and noble of stature, has, it has been recently observed, increased his height by at least one inch by triple soling his boots. It was only of late discovered that he'll be involved in the forthcoming investitures where the order of the "No. 9" is to be vigorously applied to various members of dubious quality, and, by no other than the QMSI. Go to it Rusty!



An example of some of the spit and polish that went on prior to leaving "B" Echelon for Canada.

SECOND BATTALION REPORT

NOV. 1951 — MAY 1953

In presenting this brief report on the activities of the 2nd Battalion of the Regiment, it is not the writer's intention to dwell on the happenings prior to November 1951 when the unit was relieved on the line JAMESTOWN, in Korea, by the 1st Battalion. These events have been related by our present Intelligence Officer, Lt. C. A. Petrie, the first installment of which appears in this issue of the Journal.

Suffice to say that it was a happy 2nd Battalion who greeted the succeeding contingents of the 1st Battalion who had spent an impatient year awaiting their turn at the enemy.

There had already been despatched to Canada several drafts to proceed to Rivers for parachute training in order to relieve, as quickly as possible, 1st Battalion personnel left in Calgary in the Mobile Striking Force role.

These were followed by the remainder of the battalion by sea and by air as rapidly as they could be relieved and transportation made available.

The process of regrouping commenced on 31 January 52 when the 2nd Battalion Holding Establishment was dissolved and our Commanding Officer, Lt.-Col. J. R. Stone, DSO and two bars, MC, resumed his command.

In January 1952 the first heavy influx of returnees arrived in Currie Barracks. The mobile striking force companies were rapidly reformed and engaged in winter indoctrination training in Sarcee. February saw "A" Coy, under command of Capt. M. H. Marchessault, off to Fort Churchill on Exercise Polar Star III where they spent two weeks preparing for a fortnight out on the "trail". At this same time recruits began to arrive at the unit for training as reinforcements to the Far East. This was the start of a flood of recruits from all parts of Canada, most of whom have been dispatched to the 1st and 3rd Battalions.

The 17 March 52 was celebrated with the traditional "Bromiloo" games in which the officers were severely trounced by the sergeants. A luncheon was served to the men and Mess dinners celebrated in the Officers' and Sergeants'

messes. A most pleasant day was climaxed by the removal, by an anonymous group of officers, of a brass cannon, prized possession of the LdSH(RC) Officers' Mess, which was accorded a place of honour in front of the Patricias' mess. There the cannon rested for a month before the Strathconas marshalled a successful counter attack.

This Regimental birthday was followed on 25 April 52 by the celebration of the first anniversary of the 2nd Battalion's sharpest clash of their Korean campaign, the battle of Kapyong. There the unit became the first Canadian formation to be awarded the American Presidential Unit Citation. A tabloid sports day was held, which, with the cooperation of perfect weather, proved to be eminently successful. Mess dinners were held in the officers' and sergeants' messes. On the following day, in a simple but impressive ceremony, the unit was granted the freedom of the City of Calgary and became the first unit to be allowed to march through the city in the traditional manner, "With colours flying, with bands playing, and with bayonets fixed".

During May 52 the unit was honoured by official visits of two former Commanding Officers of the Regiment, Col. C. B. Ware, DSO, CD, on the 15th, and on the 19th by Maj. Gen. C. G. Vokes, CB, CBE, DSO, CD, GOC, Western Command. The GOC's visit was coincidental with the commencement of Exercise Terrier in Sarcee, prelude to Exercise Bull Pup.

"Bullpup" was the unit's first major airborne exercise. An "Enemy" platoon under command of Lt. H. T. Ross, dropped into the Wainwright area, became the object of intensive aerial reconnaissance, and bombardment, and eventual annihilation by a company of the MSF commanded by Maj. C. V. Lilley, MC. Working in close conjunction were No. 1 Airborne Section RCAMC and No. 1 Airborne Section RCASC. Western Command A, Q, and G Staffs were fully exercised in their roles, and the exercise was a pronounced success at all levels.

A contingent of 40 parachutists participated in a mass jump at Edmonton on Air Force Day, 14 June 52. Due to a sudden decrease in the wind velocity, many landed on the tarmac of the airport. Fortunately only a few minor injuries

were incurred. In the reception given the troops, it appeared that the Army had stolen the lime-light.

Col. D. F. Forbes, DSO, ED, Director of Infantry, was a visitor to the unit on 26 June 52 and a mess dinner was held in his honour in the Officers' Mess.

During this period recruit training became very intensive, and at Shannon Coulee, in the Sarcee area, approximately eight miles from Currie Barracks, "D" Coy established an advance training camp to process the recruits who had completed their basic training with "C" Coy. Due to excellent weather it was possible to operate this camp until mid November, 1952.

It was at this time also that Calgary Garrison, with great regret, bid farewell and Godspeed to Col. Ware, who had been appointed to command The Canadian Services College, Royal Roads. A cocktail party in his honour was given by the Sergeants' Mess, and a garden party at the Officers' Mess honouring the Colonel and his gracious wife.

A demonstration of company fire power, thickened with medium machine gun and 81 mm mortar fire was given by "C" Coy and elements of "SP" Coy at Sarcee to the Canadian Mayors' Convention on the 2nd July.

Just prior to this, 193 officers and men of the MSF entrained for Fort Churchill where, from 3 July to 5 August, they carried out Exercise Deerfly II, orientation to operations in the Arctic tundra under summer conditions. The high morale of this group, commanded by Maj. D. W. Grant, was evidenced by the addition of several new songs to the unit's already large repertoire.

A visit on 8 July 52 by the Chief of the General Staff, Lt. Gen. G. G. Simonds, CB, CBE, DSO, CD, accompanied by the GOC Western Command was the occasion of the mounting of a Guard of Honour commanded by Capt. M. H. Marchessault.

No sooner had the MSF returned from the North than they were once again in Sarcee on Exercise Gopher I from 13-17 August. With a skelton BHQ, A Echelon and Support Coy elements, they were practised in tactical movement of unit echelons and in camouflage and track discipline.

Brig. J. M. Rockingham, CB, CBE, DSO, ED, former commander of 25 Canadian Infantry Brigade, but recently returned from Korea, was entertained at a cocktail party and luncheon at the Officers' Mess on 18 August 1952.

Probably the most enjoyable exercise the 2nd has undertaken to date was Exercise Buffalo III at Wainwright from 27 August to 7 September 1952. Given the role of an enemy force superior in strength and equipment of all types, the unit exercised 25 CIBRG, consisting of 3 Bn PPCLI, 3 Bn RCR and 3 Bn R22R, in withdrawal at night. They were well exercised, with patrols of the 2nd disrupting communications and creating complete chaos at every turn. Two Regimental Sergeants Major were taken prisoner of war, TAC signs were switched, and a Bailey bridge, the pride and joy of the Independent Squadron, RCE was dismantled.

In October 1952 the unit had the misfortune to have an officer goaled by the RCMP for espionage. Arrested as he stepped out of the aircraft which had carried him to Whitehorse, Y.T., Lt. A. L. Hill languished in durance vile until after Exercise Ice Cap. A platoon of "A" Coy under the command of Lt. M. G. Levy parachuted into Whitehorse Y.T. airfield.

"D" Coy, the advance training company moved from Shannon Coulee to Fort Mary Hill, Esquimalt Garrison, Vancouver Island, on 23 November 52 with Maj. D. O. Kearns commanding. Recruit training had increased to such an extent that, at this period, there were 10 platoons of men undergoing basic and advance training. It can be readily appreciated that this, coupled with the strenuous airborne activity imposed quite a strain on the resources of the unit. In the period 1 April 52 to 31 March 53, 700 recruits were trained.

Throughout the week commencing 17 November the airborne troops in the unit underwent conversion training from C-47 (Dakotas) to C-119 (Boxcars), aircraft making one exit from each of the port and starboard doors.

The Vice-Quartermaster General, Brig. J. V. Allard, CBE, DSO, ED, was the guest of honour at a cocktail party and luncheon during his visit to the unit 26 November 1952.

A series of regimental dances held in Harvey Hall during the summer and fall proved to be extremely popular events. A "chorus girl" line up, including Lt. R. J. Campbell, and officer cadets, under the tutelage of Mrs. C. V. Lilley brought down the house with their "Can-Can" routine.

The traditional serving of Christmas dinner by the officers was observed, and the Commanding Officers of both 1st and 2nd Battalions passed on to the troops the greetings of our Colonel-in-Chief, The Lady Patricia Ramsay, our Honorary Colonel and founder of the Regiment, Brig. Hamilton Gault; and many other past and present Patricias.

The festive season was short lived for the MSF companies who found themselves on 5 January 53 in Sarcee on Exercise Hot Dog. This was one of two preparatory exercises designed to ready the troops for Exercise Bulldog later in the winter. Until the end of the month the troops were practiced in winter indoctrination, and standard operating procedure in reducing enemy lodgements. During this period experiments were also carried out on different types of rations, from the standard five-in-one pack to a type of pemmican designed by Lt. Col. Stone. The second exercise, Bullship, followed immediately from the 2-6 Feb when the MSF was dropped in the vicinity of Dog Pound near Cochrane, and put into practice the lessons learned in Sarcee.

After a short leave the MSF boarded their busses to Fort Nelson, where they emplaned on 15 Feb for their drop into Norman Wells. The war was postponed for half an hour, however, when Pte. Bodner's rifle valise became entangled in the aircraft. He spent some 35 minutes suspended under the fuselage, in the 32 degree below zero weather. Several unsuccessful attempts were made to pull him back into the aircraft, and he was finally cut loose at 2000 feet and landed completely unharmed. In recognition of his steadfast courage he was recently awarded a certificate of commendation by the CGS. This exercise culminated the units airborne tests, and was the last in which the unit participated. It was gratifying to note that in recognition of their proficiency, the exercise was ended ahead of schedule, and the unit returned on the 25 Feb from the field.

Some of the problems of the unit can be appreciated when it is pointed out that during this period the unit strength was roughly 1500. In addition to the heavy airborne activity, an extremely heavy course schedule held the unit about 50% understrength in officers and NCOs, to a very gruelling pace. As well as training hundreds of recruits, 570 personnel were dispatched on courses ranging from parachuting to cooking, from Apr 52 to 31 Mar 53.

The visit on 17 Feb of Brig. F. A. Clift, DSO, ED, newly appointed commander of 25 CIBRG in Wainwright was followed on the 25th by Brig. C. Walsh, CBE, DSO, who had but recently been appointed Director of Military Training. Cocktail parties and luncheons were held in their honour.

The airborne role of the unit was taken over by the 1st Battalion on the 1 April 53. They had spent the preceding months, after their return from the Far East, brushing up on airborne technique, and training new jumpers.

1 Battalion also assumed the responsibility for training of recruits and dispatching of reinforcements to the Orient. This has left the Second free to concentrate on training for its next overseas tour. Back to Sarcee Camp early in May, the unit is now undergoing intensive training designed to make it the best Canadian Unit in the European theatre.

Morale is high in spite of very adverse weather conditions, and the proof that our aim is being attained was embodied in the remarks of the GOC Western Command on his inspection on 27 May 53. After taking the salute on the march past of the Battalion on an impromptu parade square ankle-deep in mud, Maj. Gen. Vokes stated that he had never seen a better parade under worse conditions.

On entering this third phase of our Battalion's short history, we welcome the opportunity to add yet another chapter of achievement. All ranks are determined that these achievements will be worthy of the traditions of the Regiment of which we are so proud.

To all Patricias, past and present, the Second sends greetings and best wishes for continuing success; and to our gracious Colonel-in-Chief and to our founder and Honorary Colonel, our deepest respects.

God save the Queen.



Second Battalion receives the Freedom of the City of Calgary on return from distinguished service in Korea.

THIRD BATTALION REPORT

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following report is made up from extracts taken from third battalion's monthly newsletters (Oct. 1952-March 1953).

During the first few days of October, 1952, the battalion re-organized after embarkation leave. Gear was packed and all suffered kit inspections, QM parades, medicals and needles. Before bed-time, all ranks practiced squint-eyed and vaguely ferocious in full-length mirrors. Different postures of nonchalant, though inspiring indifference, into which one would automatically fall when heavy shelling started, were conscientiously practiced. The unit prepared to entrain for Seattle.

The USNS Marine Adder carried the battalion to Japan. The system of announcing meals, aboard ship, struck a discord with the "British" in our souls. At meal time, a nasal drawl over the ship's PA set-up announced to all alive: "Com-pahtment Easy 5, Com-pahtment Easy 5, Chow; Chow." Aesthetic Canadian representatives suggested that the method be changed slightly and the American staff cheerfully agreed

without a moment's hesitation, though eyebrows were raised as if to say, "These Canucks - - screwy jibonies". So, at the next meal, delicate Canadian feelings were soothed to the melody of, "Attention com-pahtment easy 5, attention com-pahtment easy 5; chow is na'ow bein' soived, chow is na'ow bein' soived." Nothing further was suggested.

One gray morning the ship awoke to find Yokohama alongside. The unit travelled overnight by train to 25 CRG camp at Hiro, near Kure. The train was rather "basic" but as far as speed, cleanliness and courtesy are concerned, it has no competition.

After a week-long "preparative stay" in Hiro, the Empire Pride, a British troopship, carried the unit to Pusan. The battalion was officially welcomed by President Syngman Rhee of the Republic of Korea who expressed his gratitude to Canada.

From Pusan by train, to Tok-Chong and, as October drew to its hectic close, third battalion took up reserve positions in the Commonwealth Divisional layout.

On the evening of 18 November, 1952, the



Third Battalion get their first glimpse of Pusan from the British Troopship "Empire Pride".

battalion was called on to perform as "counter-attackers". Before the night was out, Baker Company had taken over a position vacated by a Black Watch company, used as reinforcements and Charlie company had swept the "Hook" and was in the line taking casualties. The third Patricias were "blooded" and, in their brief skirmishes with the enemy had acquitted themselves adequately.

As November began to think about turning into December, the unit prepared to relieve Scotland's first and finest, The Black Watch. The ominous "Hook" feature was taken over in a neat and orderly fashion with "speed" and "silence" the guiding factors.

December, Third Patricia's and true winter weather arrived simultaneously to the Korean front. Vigorous patrol policy was effected; Eisenhower was President of the USA; and Korean peace seemed as remote as Canada.

Somehow, the Black Watch were able to tear themselves away from the "Hook" and allow 3 Battalion to assume the responsibilities of defending it. When the unit took over this layout it meant, in varying degrees, that every company was a "forward" one. There was actually none in reserve as laid down in Infantry Training Pamphlet No. 4, Volume 1. Left to right the battalion read Able, Charlie, Baker and Dog in the shape of a boomerang or "hook". To the left of Able stretched a long gallant FDL, one man deep, of the United States Marines. On the right flank, beside Dog and straddling the Samichon River was an RCR company under command; further on, the R 22e R. Occasionally the "van doos" fired on an RCR patrol but so did the PPCLI. No wonder RCR keep brass so bright and boots so shiny—they are doing their best to be recognized by their allies.

One of the first fighting patrols was taken out by Lieutenant R. J. Campbell of Dog company and Moose Groin, Saskatchewan. One December evening, he led his platoon to the rear of a Chinese ridge called Seattle. To make a long story short, he managed to kill a few Chinese, discovered that Chinamen used picks and shovels when digging and used real bullets when shooting. As dessert, he somehow acquired a piece of shrapnel in his aspidistra (which is lean). How the gallant Mr. Campbell was so critically wound-

ed in the south-end while the enemy was in the north is a ponderous problem. His brother officers refrain from embarrassing the poor chap with logical questions. Majors, of course, have no decency and almost demanded an explanation to the phenomenon but never got an adequate reason. The Colonel is supposed to be above human sentiments and at most inopportune moments is liable to ask, "How did you get shot in the posterior (slang) Campbell?" This places the ball squarely in the arms of Lt. Campbell, who is a little stunned at the affront.

On the 28th of December, the battalion was relieved by the RCR and withdrew in dignified haste to a rear area where multi Christmas-New Years' dinners were gorged. Gifts from Messrs Labatts meant free beer and IODE meant parcels for each soldier. The regiment's Women's Auxiliary sent large boxes of goodies to each platoon which included soup, chocolates, salmon, candles, etc.

To troops in the line a reserve position is the Mecca of all journeys and, virtually a promised land to be yearned for, sought after and, if all prayers are answered, ultimately achieved. To troops in reserve positions (Canadian troops anyway) a line position is the most attractive of all assignments. "Get away from all this chicken blank" say the war-like gladiators.

At the end of the month, the whole Commonwealth Division pulled stakes and went into a thing called "Corps Reserve", hitherto unknown to Empire forces in Korea.

The new battalion area was chosen with an eye for the scenic grandeur of the MSR (Main Supply Route). Across a frozen paddy field and, snuggled warmly to the bosom of a gentle Korean knoll, nested the third battalion nibbling the dust of the UN highway. On warm days steam rose from the fields and the aroma of second hand manure recognized all noses as equal. If the crops are fertilized half as well as the atmosphere about them Korea should be the healthiest growing land in Christendom.

February played host to a number of changes in the battalion. Lt. Beeman (IO) reported to Bde as IO but is still tolerated by the unit. 2/Lt. Graham was shorn of his bee-oo-tiful fuffelt goatee by Major McPhail and others. An LO

at Bde, the ex-bearded one now carries a brief case and cigarette holder. The new Pioneer officer, 2/Lt. Pilcher has been ordered to "grow"—but fast. A naked wonder too. Lt. "Cowboy" Campbell is the new welfare officer in place of Lt. G. Anderson who is tired of it all and going home. Lt. Barnett becomes a "Stove-pipe Commando" in place of Lt. Hodge of the Mortar Platoon (headin' back). Captain Le Marcel Marchessault becomes the new Adjutant since Captain Pete Rogers has parlayed his Blue-nosed peculiarities into a Staff Learners deal at Bde. Assistant Adjutant is 2/Lt. Ern Anderson. MMG boss is Captain "Spanish" Campbell, the battalion expert on the burning capabilities of canvas. He blisters at the topic. So does the Colonel. Mr. Currie will investigate.

The Colonel-in-Chief's birthday, 17 Mar 53, was celebrated by knock-out matches of "broom-i-loo". "Battling Baker" commanded by dashing Major "Ronnie" Roberts, won the day. Against the Sergeants, "Ronnie" made an acrobatic touch-down attempt by scooping up a loose ball and plunging his 130 odd pounds deep into RQ Ludtkes 230 odd. Ludtke did not fare second

best. Nor did the ball. Casualties were fewer than normal with Sergeant Kliewer suffering a sprained eye when Sergeant Sequin swung his broom at Captain Basham, who ducked. Sergeant Taylor body-checked Major Bruce and broke one of his many thumbs, (Sgt. Taylor's thumb).

In the morning, Lt. Col. Wood read telegrams from Lady Patricia Ramsay, Brigadier A. Hamilton Gault, the "other" two battalions, Brigadier W. G. Colquhoun and many others. The RSM led an "impromptu" chorus of the "Ric-a-dam-doo" and threatened the officers for not singing loud enough.

Towards the end of March, the unit was attacked by some oriental "bug". After a hard-fought, but losing battle, the Commanding Officer, Lt. Col. H. F. Wood, tactically withdrew to recuperate and build up to active strength again. Sent to hospital in Japan, Col. Wood will be away from it all for a short time, it is hoped. It will be harder on him to remain there than to return to the peace and quiet of the "Land of the Morning Calm". Major C. E. C. MacNeil assumes command in his absence.



Third Battalion on arrival in Korea gather around the Brigade Commander for an informal chat. Lt. Col. H. F. Wood, C.O. Third Battalion stands to the right of the Brigadier.

NEWS OF AND FROM PATRICIAS SERVING AWAY

Throughout the country and overseas there are many Patricias serving away from the Regiment. It is hoped that the Regimental Journal will provide the means for these officers and men to maintain a closer contact with the activities of their Regiment.

This section of the Journal will report news of and from Patricias, still serving away from the Regiment, as received in letters to the Editor and, will be a regular feature of The Patrician.

Recent visitors to the Home Station include the following:

Lt. Col. N. G. Wilson-Smith, DSO, MBE, GSO 1 Western Command.

Lt. Col. J. C. Allan DSO, MBE, CD, c/o RMC, Kingston, Ontario.

Lt. Col. W. de N. Watson, DSO, MC, DQOP Army Headquarters.

Major W. J. MacDougald, CD, OC 8 PD, Winnipeg, Man.

Major J. C. Newlands, CD, RSO, U of M, Winnipeg, Man.

Captain "Bob" Graham, HQ Western Command.

Captain "Eddie" Lefevre, RSO, N. B. Area.

Recent letters from the following are acknowledged with thanks.

Colonel C.B. Ware, DSO, CD, Comd. Royal Roads, Victoria, B.C.

Lt. Col. H. F. Cotton, CD, D/Comd., Rivers, Man.



CAPT. GERALD KELLY, formerly with 1st Battalion, completed his 100th parachute jump in April 1953. He is now employed at the Canadian Joint Air Training Centre, Rivers.

Lt. Col. N. M. Gemmell, DSO, HQ Fort Churchill.

Major C. A. Wilkes, CD, OC I & A Cadre, Winnipeg, Man.

Major E. J. Williams, Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Virginia.

Capt. W. B. S. Sutherland, Adjutant Officer Candidate School.

PRINCESS PATRICIA'S CANADIAN LIGHT INFANTRY ASSOCIATION

This section of the journal will report news about old PP's and will be a regular feature of The Patrician. This issue carries a report from Association Headquarters, in Montreal, which will give the young soldier in the regiment the background details of the organization.

Shortly after World War II, a group of enterprising Patricias met in Montreal to discuss the possibility of reviving interest in the PPCLI Association which, due to circumstances beyond anyone's control, had become inactive in the East.

Although the meeting was held primarily to revive interest in the Montreal Branch of the Association, Brigadier Gault, Lieutenant Colonel Cobbett, Major Gammell, along with Major Colin McDougall, and several others thought some action should be taken in an effort to bring about a more intimate liaison between all the Patricia Clubs in Canada — many of which had been very active in their functions since originally organized after World War I.

The Montreal meeting, held early in 1946, was attended by many ex-Patricias from both Wars, and from this emerged a rejuvenated Montreal Branch which has been holding at least two well-attended gatherings a year ever since. Their present nominal roll totals approximately 125, and it is hoped this will grow each year as new

Patricias are enrolled from Montreal and the surrounding areas.

The mention of a closer liaison between branches was equivalent to a new "call to arms" for Brigadier Gault who immediately swung into action at the annual meeting of the Association following the Regimental Trooping of the Colours in May of 1946.

At that meeting, Brigadier Gault proposed an Honorary Central Regimental Executive Committee to be organized for this purpose. While he had hoped it would be possible to have this Committee function from Regimental Headquarters, it was found to be impossible due entirely to rapid turnover in personnel, preparations for Paratroop training, and movement of potential Central Executive Members to various parts of Canada on a moment's notice.

Brigadier Gault was then asked if he could form a Temporary Committee to function out of Montreal and operate under his guidance. Approximately three months later this was done, with a Committee composed of the following:

Honorary Chairman - Brigadier A. H. Gault, DSO, ED; Honorary Treasurer - Lt. Col. S. A. Cobbett; Honorary Secretary Lt. C. F. Dumaesq; Honorary Member - Major R. G. M. Gammell; Honorary Member - Major C. M. McDougall, DSO.

This Temporary Committee is still functioning and will continue until such time as its activities can be transferred permanently to Regimental Headquarters where it can work in much closer liaison with the Regiment itself.

Since its formation, the Temporary Committee has collected approximately \$530.00 in cash for comforts for the First, Second and Third Battalions in Korea. In addition, it has been successful in procuring many free gifts of playing cards from the various Clubs in Montreal, together with innumerable paperbacked books and magazines, all of which were donated by local individuals and organizations but shipped through the Central Committee.

The money collected was also used to send thousands of cigarettes, note-paper, envelopes and other writing material, plus additional books and magazines, to the Troops in Korea. This function is in addition to moneys collected by other branches - notably the Victoria Branch who raised over \$2,000

primarily as a result of the individual effort by Brigadier W. G. Colquhoun, CBE, MC, CD.

OPERATIONAL HISTORY 2 BATTALION

APOLOGIA — A PREFACE

In order that the authors might the better maintain friendly relationships with sub-unit commanders (including themselves) it was decided that the policy of "no names no pack drill" would be adopted in writing this story. It has been decided too, that a complete lack of mercy would be shown when pointing out lessons of favorable and unfavorable background, as learned in Korea.

It has been the practice to submit each portion of this tale to the onslaught of criticism of persons concerned, where possible. Those lessons that are more instructive are, therefore, detailed - those war stories from which nothing concrete can be learned are given minor consideration.

It is perhaps as a result of this that one finds that time and time again the principles of war are borne out in this record.

So it is that the description "Operational History" has been attached to this manuscript, not as a terrifying title, but as an accurate name for that which was undertaken by the authors.

Major C. V. Lilley, MC
Lieut. C. A. Petrie

Chapter I

"IN THE BEGINNING . . ."

With but two days notice raw recruits and veterans of World War II began flowing into Currie Barracks, Calgary, on 15 Aug. 50. These soldiers of the future, earmarked for the Second Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (2-PPCLI), were accommodated, clothed and outfitted by officers non-commissioned of-



Lt. Col. J. R. Stone, DSO and two bars, MC,
Commanding Officer Second Battalion

Officers and men of the First Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (1-PPCLI), who although taxed to their limits performed an exemplary feat. Indeed they cannot be praised too highly for the enthusiasm and effort put forward on the part of all ranks in carrying out this most difficult task.

A week's time saw training in full swing, the new men formed into squads commencing their six weeks recruit training, and the veterans undergoing two weeks basic refresher course at Camp Sarcee. It was the intention of 1-PPCLI to select the specialists and tradesmen for 2-PPCLI from the World War II veterans on completion of their refresher training.

On 3 Sept. 50, two hundred and fifty veterans were dispatched to Wainwright Camp where they formed the nucleus of the new battalion. Skeleton companies were formed on the basis of careful selection and placing of these men. The rifle companies of the skeleton battalion undertook advanced training, while support company swung into specialist training. Simultaneously at Currie Barracks, recruit, basic refresher, driver IC, and NCO courses were being conducted by 1-PPCLI.

Six hundred personnel were under training at Wainwright by 6 Oct. 50 when Lt.-Col. J. R. Stone DSO, MC assumed command of his battalion from Lt. Col. N. G. Wilson-Smith, MBE. The battalion was at full strength by 15 Oct. 50, with the reinforcement group acting as a fifth rifle company. Hectic training culminated in a two-day battalion exercise, bringing out the lessons of advance to bivouac area and the defence thereof. 1-PPCLI acting as enemy used a combination of ground and airborne forces to assess the battalion bivouac defences.

Upon the completion of the battalion exercise the Advance Water Party was dispatched to Fort Lewis, U.S.A. The battalion itself proceeded on embarkation leave.

It was officially announced on the seventh of November that the battalion would be the only unit of the Brigade to proceed to Korea. Morale and paper soared to new heights as the battalion prepared for the first leg of its journey — destination Fort Lewis.

The highlight of the four day stop-over in

Fort Lewis was the inspection of the Brigade by the Minister of National Defence, the Honourable Brooke Claxton, accompanied on his inspection by a driving rain.

The war in Korea at this time appeared to be drawing to a close and therefore it was decided that the wastage and replacement group would not accompany the battalion.

In a drizzling rain the battalion was crammed aboard the "Joe P. Martinez" (7,800 tons) in the harbour of Seattle, Washington on 26 Nov. 50. After twenty-three days with stop-overs at Honolulu, Yokohama and Kobe (no shore leave, no liquor — just route marches) the troops finally disembarked at Pusan on 18 Dec. 50.

Troops were billeted in a school ground under canvas which had been erected by the advance Water Party. The main effort was now directed to the administrative problems of equipping the battalion. Simultaneously physical conditioning, firing of weapons (particularly the American Mortars) was carried out by those not directly employed on the administrative problems.

The military situation at this time had deteriorated considerably and pressure was being exerted by the Eighth Army for the early commitment of the battalion to action. The Commanding Officer held firm on the point that the battalion would require at least six to eight weeks collective training before he would be willing to permit his battalion to join battle.

By Christmas Day all companies had their complement of vehicles, weapons, company stores and winter clothing. A short suspension of training and administration was observed on Christmas Day to allow the troops to celebrate and enjoy the excellent Yuletide feast supplied by the American Quartermaster Corps. The finer things of a Canadian Christmas were enjoyed to the fullest through the wonderful parcels sent by the Ladies Auxiliaries to the PPCLI. Our hearts, indeed, still go out to them in earnest thanks.

Two days later the battalion began its move by convoy from the staging camp to the training area allotted by the Eighth United States Army in Korea (EUSAK) just outside Miryang (half way between Pusan and Taegu).

Training now became the order of the day. The Battalion began to live its role in the field



A Company training at Miryang, Jan. - Feb. 1951.

working around the clock seven days a week with a minimum of eighty hours per week to be spent on objective thinking. Exhausted men exhibited boundless enthusiasm. An outstanding example of the keenness of these soldiers in training for battle is felt worth quoting at this stage. Pte. Edgely, 'of the Home Guard, Sir!', an indomitable Briton, later killed in action commanding a section not wishing to rely wholly on our ammunition supply saw fit to purchase, at \$10.00 each, 3.5 inch Rocket Launcher Bombs from American sources. The canny soul cached these beneath his bed roll. Upon discovery of this cache of rockets, questioning brought forth the reply that he wanted to become an expert marksman with the Rocket Launcher.

A six weeks progressive programme of training was instituted, beginning with the zeroing of weapons, physical hardening through hill climbing, then section, platoon and company tactics, culminating in a five-day battalion exercise. Throughout this training, platoon, company and battalion support weapons were utilized, firing live ammunition. Due to the proximity of the enemy, it was necessary to conduct road and defensive position reconnaissance during this training period. Guerilla activity increased to such an extent that our own troops whilst on tactical manoeuvres were fired upon in broad daylight; and convoys were being ambushed at night. Two

members of the 16th New Zealand Artillery Regiment were ambushed and killed one night, whereupon the Commanding Officer ordered out a company to sweep the area and the camp to be guarded day and night. The guerilla sweep was a two fold success in that it not only inflicted casualties on the enemy but it also provided a superb situation for training both operationally and administratively.

In six weeks of very rigorous training at Miryang, more had been done in preparing these men for war than could possibly have been accomplished by six months of training in Canada. Due to the strenuous nature of the training some of the battalion were found wanting. Three casualties resulted from the extensive use of live ammunition throughout the period. These are certainly worth detailing here.

1. RSM J. D. Wood, killed whilst demonstrating the details of a shrapnel type antipersonnel mine.

2. One man wounded in thigh by medium machine gun fire during company attack.

3. One man received superficial wound in left arm during battle inoculation. This man finished the course before reporting to the Regimental Aid Post.

EDITOR'S NOTE—Chapter 2 "Committed" The first 24 days will appear in the next issue.

